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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

REDISCOVERY OF WINNECKE'S PERIODIC COMET = α 1897.

This comet was observed by the writer on the morning of January 2d. At $2^{\text{h}} 5^{\text{m}} 42^{\text{s}}$ G. M. T. it was in R. A. $15^{\text{h}} 19^{\text{m}} 2^{\text{s}}.51$ and Decl. $-3^{\circ} 58' 34''.3$. It is, therefore, $2^{\text{m}} 0^{\text{s}}$ east and $8'.7$ south of the place predicted for it by HILLEBRAND (*Ast. Nach.*, No. 3447).

The comet is very small and faint, about $10''$ to $15''$ in diameter, and slightly brighter at the center. It is much less favorably situated at the present return than at the last, in 1892, and hence will be faint during this entire apparition and probably not within the range of small telescopes.

This comet was first discovered by PONS in 1819, and a period of five and a half years deduced by ENCKE. It was, however, not seen again until 1858, when it was discovered as a new comet by WINNECKE. It has been observed at the subsequent returns in 1869, 1875, 1886, and 1892.

C. D. PERRINE.

THE PROBABLE STATE OF THE SKY ALONG THE PATH OF
TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, MAY 28, 1900.†

"Having regard to the cost of establishing temporary eclipse stations, and the losses to science in case a clear view of the Sun is not secured during totality, it is proper to determine, as far as practicable, the probable state of the sky along the path, with the view of selecting the best sites for the observations. To do this, a study may be made of the cloud conditions prevailing annually along the shadow track for a period of time, including the date

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† Abstract from the Report by Professor FRANK H. BIGELOW, in the *Monthly Weather Review* for September, 1897.